

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TEL AV 09933 040907Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 SAA-01 SES-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01
IO-13 /108 W

-----092157 050320Z /45

R 031820Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4651
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION SINAI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 9933

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, PEPR, IS, US
SUBJECT: KNESSET MEMBER ORGANIZING GROUP TO PROMOTE U.S.-ISRAEL
DEFENSE TREATY

1. AS ADDRESSEES KNOW, ISRAEL HAS LONG HAD ITS PROPONENTS
OF A MILITARY ALLIANCE WITH THE U.S. AS A PART OF THE PREFERRED
SOLUTION TO ITS SECURITY PROBLEM. ADVOCACY OF A
FORMAL U.S.-ISRAEL AGREEMENT CUTS ACROSS PARTY LINES, BUT
IS GENERALLY LIMITED TO THE CENTER AND LEFT OF THE POLITICAL
SPECTRUM. A DEFENSE TREATY WITH THE U.S. IS USUALLY
AN ELEMENT IN THE PEACE SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS OFFERED BY
MODERATES, WHO FAVOR IT AS A SUPPLEMENT TO TERRITORY FOR
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TEL AV 09933 040907Z

ITS VALUE AS PROTECTION AND DETERRENCE. TO THIS SUPPORTERS
A TREATY WOULD MAXIMIZE THE EXTENT OF TERRITORY THEY
WOULD RELINQUISH FOR PEACE.

2. ONE SUCH MODERATE IS LIBERAL PARTY MK YITZHAK BERMANN.
IN A RECENT ARTICLE IN HAARETZ, BERMANN STRONGLY DEFENDED
THE CONCEPT OF A TREATY WITH THE U.S. AS ESSENTIAL TO

ISRAEL'S SECURITY, NOT ONLY AGAINST THE THREAT POSED BY ITS NEIGHBORS, BUT AS A DETERRENT AGAINST SOVIET INTERVENTION. HE DREW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN A UNILATERAL GUARANTEE AND A DEFENSE ALLIANCE, ARGUING THAT THE LATTER'S MUTUALITY AND ITS REQUIREMENT OF SENATE CONFIRMATION WOULD MAKE THE COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY FAR MORE BINDING THAN A U.S.-BESTOWED GUARANTEE. BERMANN CLEARLY HAD IN MIND A NATO TYPE OF ALLIANCE.

3. LAST WEEK BERMANN TOLD US THAT HE IS IN THE PROCESS OF ORGANIZING A NON-PARTISAN GROUP IN THE KNESET TO PROMOTE THE TREATY IDEA. HE BELIEVES THE TIME IS RIPE FOR A PUBLIC DEBATE OF THE ISSUE AND CLAIMS TO HAVE RECRUITED A NUMBER OF MK'S FROM BOTH OPPOSITION AND COALITION RANKS. AMONG THE MK'S BERMANN CLAIMS TO HAVE SIGNED UP FOR HIS "LOBBY" ARE MENAHEM SAVIDOR AND YITZHAK YITZHAKI (LIKUD), YOSSE SARID AND MICHA HARISH (ALIGNMENT) AND SHULAMIT ALONI (CITIZEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT). BERMANN SAID THAT HE HAD NOT CLEARED HIS PROJECT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER BUT HAS DISCUSSED IT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN, "WHO EXPRESSED NO OPPOSITION."

4. COMMENT: WHETHER OR NOT BERMANN'S "LOBBY" PROVES TO BE A RECRUITMENT SUCCESS IN THE KNESSET, A U.S. DEFENSE TREATY IS NOT YET SEEN HERE AS AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME. AT THIS POINT IN THE PEACE PROCESS, IT GENERATES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TEL AV 09933 040907Z

NO ENTHUSIASM IN THE CABINET AND IN THE PERCEPTION OF MAIN STREAM ISRAEL IT CARRIES AN IMPOSSIBLE PRICE TAG -- NEARLY TOTAL WITHDRAWAL.
LEWIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, MILITARY AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV09933
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780321-0064
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780798/aaaadepb.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b1bf7c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2122877
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KNESSET MEMBER ORGANIZING GROUP TO PROMOTE U.S.-ISRAEL DEFENSE TREATY
TAGS: MARR, PEPR, IS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b1bf7c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014